

The Official Opening Of The

# McLAUGHLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

First Of December  
Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-four



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COL. R. S. McLAUGHLIN, LL.D.

TODAY we are opening in the heart of our city, one of the finest libraries in all of Canada, and I think sincerely, that the good people of this community will look on it with a feeling of pride. Not pride of ownership alone, but pride that stems from the fact that here among the most pleasant surroundings they and their children and their children's children may take advantage of the wealth of knowledge it holds.

As an industrial city grows to maturity, one of the chief charges on its citizens is to remember that progress is as surely measured in the minds of its people as it is in the city's great public works. This library is a definite means to that end. It will provide for those other things of the imagination and the spirit that will nourish the minds of all our people. Ideas will grow here and it is my pleasure to offer them fertile ground for growth.

*R. S. McLaughlin*



## A GIFT THAT WILL LIVE FOREVER IN THE HEART OF EVERY OSHAWA CITIZEN

Just as good tools help to make good workmen, we hope that this wonderful new building, so splendidly equipped, will help the Library Board and Staff to render more excellent service to the community in everything that a library seeks to do.

G. TELFORD



The completion of the New McLaughlin Library confers a great mark of distinction to the cultural development of our community.

We cannot commend too highly all those who have assisted in any way the planning and erection of this magnificent structure.

To Mr. R. S. McLaughlin, who has contributed so generously to the social, cultural, intellectual and religious growth of our city, I am pleased to extend the sincere thanks of the members of the Oshawa City Council and all the citizens whom we represent.

W. JOHN NAYLOR.



I am indeed happy to have the opportunity of extending my congratulations to the citizens of Oshawa on the opening of the new McLaughlin Public Library. I know that your need for increased library facilities has been severe for many years. You are indeed fortunate to have a benefactor interested enough in the culture of the community who would give this beautiful institution to your city as Col. R. S. McLaughlin has done in this instance.

I consider it an honour to have been invited to participate in the opening of this magnificent structure on December 1st.

LESLIE M. FROST, Premier Province of Ontario

## ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

O CANADA

Opening remarks by the Chairman of the Public Library Board Rev. George Telford.

☞

Col. R. S. McLaughlin formally presents the Library to the City of Oshawa.

☞

Mr. John Naylor, Mayor of Oshawa, acknowledges the gift on behalf of the city, and presents keys to the Oshawa Library Board.

☞

Miss Jean Fetterly, Chief Librarian presents first books to be issued by the Library.

☞

Mr. T. L. Wilson will introduce Hon. Leslie M. Frost, Premier of Ontario, who will formally open the Library.

☞

Prayer of Dedication. Rev. Stewart C. Coles, President of the Oshawa Ministerial Association.

☞

The Chairman introduces Mr. Angus Mowat, Director of Public Library Service for Ontario.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

*The Library will open for inspection on Wednesday, December first, and Thursday, December second, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.*

*The Library will open for public service at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 6th, 1954.*

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# 1864-1954 LIBRARY DEVELOPEMENT IN OSHAWA

Chief Librarian  
Office

Ninety years ago, a group of Oshawa citizens met in the little Village Council Hall on Athol Street and organized a Mechanic's Institute. This was the adaptation of an idea then current in England . . . "enabling mechanics and artisans to become acquainted with such branches of science as are of practical application in their trade." Thus was established the first library, or reading room in our community.

Located in the rented "backshop" of a store on the east side of Simcoe Street, fees were set at \$2.00 per year. Out of this fund a small supply of books and magazines was provided. Under these auspices too, arrangements were made for occasional lectures, these to be given in school-rooms of local churches.

Solely dependent on annual fees and in no sense publicly owned, this arrangement, while popular at the outset, eventually ceased to function from lack of sufficient funds and public support.

In 1887, the Mechanic's Institute was again reorganized, operating much as before in rented rooms over a store. This time it continued until in 1898 the appointment of a Public Library Board,

under the new Public Libraries Act of 1897, made it possible to take over the assets of the Institute and receive Provincial grants and aid from local taxes. The Library, as it was now known continued in rented quarters until 1906 when a site on the corner of Simcoe and Athol Streets was purchased for \$1500. On this lot a building costing \$12,000 was erected under terms of the Carnegie Fund Trust.

The population of Oshawa was then around 5000 and the building was planned to anticipate the needs of a town of 10,000. This figure was reached some thirty years ago, but the building and staff continued, (under increasingly difficult conditions during the last 25 years), to provide for the literary requirements of a bustling city of over 40,000 persons.

And now, as the magnificently planned McLaughlin Public Library opens its doors for public use, a new and brighter era dawns in the cultural development of our community.

*From notes by Col. Frank Chappell*

## THE OSHAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD 1954

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## STAFF OF THE OSHAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY 1954

MISS JEAN FETTERLY, B.A., B.L.Sc.

MISS IRENE BOES, B.A., B.L.S.

MISS ENID WALLACE, B.A., B.L.S.

MISS CHARLOTTE ABBOTT, B.A., B.L.S.

MISS MARY ATTWOOD, B.A., B.L.S.

MISS RUTH BROOKING

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*Boys' & Girls' Librarian*

*Reference Librarian*

*Cataloguer*

*Circulation Librarian*

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*Circulation Assistant*

*General Assistant*

*General Assistant*

*General Assistant*

*General Assistant*

*General Assistant*



OSHAWA  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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